processing sector has been worked out. However, in order to invite foreign investment in textile manufacturing including textile processing sector several measures have been announced in the New Industrial Policy on 24.7.91. Further, to motivate the industry to go in for modernisation of the processing sector, the Govt. had reduced the customs duty on import of specified items of capital goods for the processing sector from 25% to 10% in the Budget 1996-97.

[English]

Production and Export of Turmeric

5778. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 80 per cent of the total production of turmeric of the world produced in the country;

(b) whether quality requirements of turmeric in developed countries are changing day by day; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to educate the growt of turmeric and its exporters about its quality needs in he foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMRCE (SHRI BOLL BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India is the largest producer of turmeric in the world. Data on the world production of turmeric is not available.

(b) The quality requirements of all food ingrediants including turmeric, undergo modifications on accounts of changes in consumer preferences and health standards.

(c) Some of the measures taken to educate the growers/ exporters about the quality requirements are :

(i) regular training of farmers/exporters on the quality standards laid down by importing countries;

(ii) supply of inputs at subsidised rates for post harvest handling and cleaning;

(iii) extending financial assistance for construction of warehouses and drying yards;

(iv) educating farmers throug distribution of booklets, handbooks, posters etc. (printed in regional languages) on hygenic practices to be adopted for processing, cleaning, storage etc;

(v) training of exporters on improved methods of packaging handling and storage to ensure quality of export produce;

(vi) arranging interaction of exporters with growers to bring about changes in quality stipulations as demanded by the buying countries;

(vii) sponsoring quality/laboratory personnel for training in laboratories abroad on analytical methods.

Direct Foreign Investment

5779. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals cleared by the Union Government during the current year till June 30, 1996 and the amount of foreign investment involve therein;

(b) the manner in which it compares with foreign investment proposals approved during the corresponding period in 1994 and 1995;

(c) whether the Government consider the level of foreign investment in the country to be sufficient ; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to encourage more foreign investment in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The number of Foreign Direct Investment proposals cleared and the amount of foreign direct investment envisaged therein during the period from January, 1996 to June, 1996, and for the corresponding period in 1994 and 1995, are as under :

Year	No. of Proposal approved	Amount of foreign direct investment (Rs. in crores)
1994	439	2454.44
1995	581	7716.09
1996	619	11719.43

(c) and (d). After the announcement of New Industrial Policy, the trend in foreign investment is satisfactory. To further augment the foreign direct investment into the country, various incentives have been announced by the Government such as revamping the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and constituting the Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC), capital subsidy, sales tax exemption, power subsidy, allotment of land on priority, setting up of growth centre and transport subsidy in hilly areas.

Jute Cess Fund

5780. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of jute cess fund collected during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on research and development activities relating to the jute industry during the above period;